

APPLICANT(S): BIEBER, Avigdor
SERIAL NO.: 10/519,478
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A lithographic printing member comprising:
 - a base layer;
 - a laser-absorbing layer over said base layer, wherein said laser-absorbing layer is a gradient solid dispersion of metal and metal-oxide areas such that concentration ratios between the metal and the metal-oxide vary throughout a thickness of said laser-absorbing layer; and
 - a coating layer over said laser-absorbing layer, said coating layer and said base layer having different affinities for ink,wherein said printing member is capable of being imaged such that selective areas of said coating layer and of said laser-absorbing layer are removed to expose said base layer.
2. (Original) The printing member of claim 1, wherein the metal is aluminum and the metal-oxide is aluminum-oxide.
3. (Original) The printing member of claim 1, wherein at least some of the metal-oxide areas have a non-stoichiometric ratio between the metal of the metal-oxide and the oxygen such that there are more metal atoms than the stoichiometric ratio.
4. (Original) The printing member of claim 3, wherein the non-stoichiometric ratio varies throughout the thickness of said laser-absorbing layer.

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5. (Original) The printing member of claim 4, wherein the non-stoichiometric ratio is higher in proximity to said base layer than in proximity to said coating layer.
6. (Original) The printing member of claim 1, wherein the thickness of said laser-absorbing layer is in the range between 0.02 to 0.6 microns.
7. (Original) The printing member of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the metal in proximity to said base layer is higher than the concentration of the metal in proximity to said coating layer.
8. (Original) The printing member of claim 1, wherein said coating layer is an ink-repelling layer.
9. (Original) The printing member of claim 1, wherein said coating layer comprises an ultraviolet curable material.
10. (Original) The printing member of claim 1 further comprising:
a form film over said coating layer.
11. (Original) The printing member of claim 10, wherein said form film is a polymeric film with low surface energy.
12. (Original) The printing member of claim 1 further comprising:
a primer layer over said laser-absorbing layer.
- 13 - 23. (Canceled)
24. (Previously Presented) The printing member of claim 1, wherein said base layer comprises ink-accepting oleophilic properties.

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25. (Previously Presented) The printing member of claim 1, wherein said base layer comprises polyvinylchloride, polycarbonate or polyethylene terephthalate.
26. (Previously Presented) The printing member of claim 1, wherein said coating layer comprises silicone epoxy oligomer or silicone acrylate oligomer.
27. (New) The printing member of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the metal within the laser-absorbing layer is higher than the concentration of the metal at both edges of the laser-absorbing layer.